

Appn No. 09/575,183  
Amdt. Dated June 29, 2004  
Response to Office action of May 5, 2004

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### REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

#### *Claims*

The Examiner rejected claims 1-8. No claim amendments have been submitted with this paper. Therefore claims 1-8 remain pending in the application.

#### *Response to Arguments*

The Applicants argued previously that Debry (U.S. Pat. No. 6,314,521) does not teach transmitting a secret unique identifier over a network. The Examiner disagreed and stated "Debry discloses in col. 8, lines 56-64 the printer encrypts a messag[e] containing the printer's model number (public unique identifier) and serial number (secret unique identifier) and IP address and send[s] this message to the server."

**The Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner cited the above passage from Debry in error.** Those lines of Debry state that "Using the encryption key built in at manufacturing time, the printer 20 encrypts a message containing the printer's model number, serial number, and IP address. It then appends to this, **in the clear**, the model number and serial number, and sends this message to the certificate authority." (Emphasis added.) Thus the printer serial number of Debry cannot act as a secret unique identifier when Debry states that the printer serial number is sent non-secretly "in the clear."

"In the clear" is a well-known term of art in the encryption field that refers to non-secret or non-encrypted data transmissions. See for example the on-line article "Building Secure Infrastructure for GIAC Enterprises" at [http://www.giac.org/practical/GCFW/Dominicus\\_Adriyanto\\_GCFW.pdf](http://www.giac.org/practical/GCFW/Dominicus_Adriyanto_GCFW.pdf): "Service '*In the clear*' means a service that will not be encrypted between two security gateways." See also the on-line article "WiFi (802.11) Security" at <http://security.getnetwise.org/tips/wifi>: "When you access Web pages or send email over a Wi-Fi network those transmissions are sent '*in the clear*'. *In the clear* means that a sophisticated and determined hacker could grab that information right out of the air and capture your emails and Web page requests."

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Therefore the printer serial number from Debry cannot be argued to be a "secret unique identifier" further to the language of the present claims. Accordingly, based on the amendments and arguments submitted previously, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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